



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, DC 20231
www.uspto.gov

#4
MAILED

FEB 25 2002

Office of the Director
Group 3600

Del Christensen
Shell Oil Company
P. O. Box 2463
Houston, TX 77252-2463

In re Application of
Harold J. Vinegar, Et. Al.
SERIAL NO: 09/841,284
FILED: April 24, 2001
FOR: IN SITU THERMAL PROCESSING
OF A COAL FORMATION TO
INCREASE A PERMEABILITY /POROSITY
OF THE FORMATION

DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE APPLICATION
SPECIAL (AGE)


This is a decision on your petition submitted on January 22, 2002, to make the above-referenced application special on the basis that applicant is over 65 years of age.

The petition has been found to comply with all requirements of section 708.02, part IV of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures, and will be **GRANTED** for that reason.

The Examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examiner such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, through out its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if Petitioner makes a prompt bona fide effort, in response to each office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the Examiner to accomplish this purpose.

The application is being forwarded to the examiner for accelerated examination consistent with the provisions of section 708.02 of the MPEP.


Steven N. Meyers
Special Programs Examiner
Technology Center 3600
(703) 308-3868
Rjb-2/21/02